Head quarters 75th Ills Vol
Chattanooga Tenn Oct 3d 1863
Dearest Lydia

Well my darling, I believe I have nothing of much importance, for this evening than writing a few words for you. Above all things would it please me to behold the light of your countenance, - to take you in these arms, - to look into your eyes and talk to you, even for one short hour, would, I think, be the happiest hours of my life, Little did I realize, when we were together, how much I should ever long, to see you, So true it is that we do not appreciate blessings, while they are in our possession, - but I hope the lesson may be useful in after life

My dream of happiness for the future, is centered in a little quiet home, of our own, freed from the contentions, and annoyances, that usually embitter life and that have in a measure soured our own past life, - and some legitimate means of earning a livelihood, other than by hard manual labor, and my own cherished Lydia to love & protect

Unambitious, is it not, yet will it be consummated, - I am pledged to a warfare with my kindred, - my trade is to kill, - my duty, to stand up bravely, and offer my own life, - it is no better than others, - on every side they fall, brave, & good men, - fond & loving hearts are torn & lie bleeding in agony, - and, possibly, the loved one for whose eyes these lines are penned may ere yet learn that the writer

tor has fallen, but Lydia, even
if more than, and so banish all
dreams of happiness in this world,
it were better than submit to the
rule of tyrants, & unprincipled
men = A National freedom,
purchased by a Million Such
lives were cheaply bought, and
in these efforts success must
attend us, or else this happy
dream of home, with all its en-
dearments, is but a dream, &
can never be realized
Our enemy, fight with the
utmost desperation, — they are
terribly in earnest —
These thoughts are not called out
because I am discouraged, or have
gloomy forebodings, for I am
cheerful, & as happy, as any one can
be in the same kind of business,
and I am looking forward forward
to the time when you will see

me coming, and with out-
Stretched arms shall welcome
me home — God Speed the day
When peace shall cover the land
and we be restored to our family

I have no news of importance
to write, except that our dead
that were left on the battle field
are being brought in as fast as
as they can, — yesterday, one thousand
came in

No demonstrations have been
made on the line for several days
and this Brigade has been moved
back nearer town & within the
inner line of entrenchments

We have had a beautiful rain of
24 hours, which has cleared everything
finely, but the nights are very
cold —

Write me good long letters, & I
will write often, — While I remain
Ever your loving Husband

(Col. and Brevet)
Lieut. Col. 76th Ills Vol